

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Subject matter previously found in the dependent claims has been incorporated into the independent claims. No new matter is entered by way of this amendment.

Independent claim 11 now recites a frame (2) arranged adjacent to the outer ends of the arms (3), the frame being fixed to the container (6).

The Official Action objected to the specification, stating that it was unclear how the frame was being rotated or reciprocated.

The frame is not being rotated in the pending claim set. Claim 11 recites the frame being fixed to the container. In the pending claim set, the recitations are all directed to the arms being moved.

As previously discussed, present Figures 8A and 8B correspond to original Figure 9, and show embodiments in cross section where the frame is arranged to the container. These figures show that the frame may be fixed to the arms or to the wall of the container.

With the frame connected (fixed) to the wall of the container, the arms rotate but neither the frame nor the wall of the container rotate, because when the frame is connected to the wall of the container, the arms are not connected to the frame.

Withdrawal of the specification objection is therefore solicited. Should this explanation not be fully satisfactory, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted to resolve the matter, including amending/deleting specification text and/or drawing figures.

Claims 11-17, and 20-27 were rejected as obvious over REBUCCI 4,150,701 in view of CHRISTENSEN 2,433,738; CLAIMS 18-19 In further view of CANTENOT 4,099,633.

Neither REBUCCI nor CHRISTENSEN disclose an output device wherein the frame is fixed to the container adjacent to the outer ends of the arms.

REBUCCI discloses an inwardly tapered skirt 90 arranged adjacent to the outer ends of the blades. However, this skirt is only arranged to remove the head pressure of the granular material within the annular passageway.

In contrast, to REBUCCI, the claimed invention has the frame fixed to the container which has the advantage of stiffening the output device and decreasing the risk of shear and bending failure of the device. Fixing the frame to the container adjacent to the outer ends of the arms also prevents lifting of the arms from the bottom of the container.

There is no teaching in either reference as to this structural arrangement or the advantageous achieved by this arrangement.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are non-obvious.

Having amended the recitations of the invention so as to recite the invention both novel and non-obvious, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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